

23 October 1944

Dear Colonel Rasmussen,

There follows a paragraph quoted from a memorandum for the Director of Naval Intelligence dated 21 October 1944:

"As for enlisted translators, the U.S. Navy has none. All Navy translators are commissioned officer graduates of the Navy School at Boulder who have completed the equivalent of the Army School at Savage plus the remaining four books in the full seven book curriculum of the Navy basic course used at both schools. Boulder graduates have had indoctrination of one month at the Advanced Naval Intelligence School in New York, and two months in actual translating in O.N.I. Five of these can be made available immediately and three additional in the near future. When the flow of air intelligence documents and the work load thereof requires additional personnel, it is hoped more Navy translators can be made available."

It is assumed that due to your familiarity with the subject, that you are fully aware of the exact meaning of the reference to the four books in the full seven book curriculum. Please advise me the exact implications of the paragraph.

Would the Navy personnel trained as indicated therein, be materially better than our graduates of MISLS for document translation work?

Give me as complete information as you can.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON BISSELL
Major General
A.C. of S., G-2.

Colonel Kai E. Rasmussen
Commandant
Military Intelligence Service Language School
Fort Snelling
Minn.

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INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EXPLOITATION OF JAPANESE AIR DOCUMENTS.

FROM	TO	DATE
A.C. of S., G-2	Chief, MIS	23-10- 1944

1. Attached hereto is a copy of memorandum from the Director of Naval Intelligence dated 21 October and copy of my reply thereto.

2. Paragraphs 1 and 2 are perfectly clear and set forth the current Navy position. It would appear that we should determine the quota of technical Air officers, without linguistic qualifications, that will be required progressively in the future at approximately thirty-day intervals. When this has been determined and we know what should be the Navy quota, please advise me and the matter will again be taken up with the Navy. I must agree that it is obvious that we could not initially utilize fully the services of twenty technical Air Officers without language qualifications. The detail of such a number at this time would be wasteful.

3. It would appear to be necessary to make some modification in our arrangements at MIRS so that the officer Navy personnel are not mixed with the enlisted personnel doing translation work and so that we utilize to the maximum capacity the qualifications of this group. I would feel that if we did not from the start utilize this personnel at maximum capacity, the Navy would be fully justified in withdrawing them. Further, if the initial five are not fully employed from the start, the Navy would have a sound basis for delaying in furnishing the other three. From the point of view of air document work, I believe their proposal cannot be criticized.

4. The reference to the qualifications of the Navy personnel is not clear to me due to my lack of detailed knowledge of the various books referred to. I am requesting Colonel Rasmussen's comments which will be forwarded to you upon receipt. Copy of my letter to Rasmussen is attached.

5. With reference to paragraph 4 of Admiral Schuirman's memorandum, I will go into this matter further. I feel that before progress could be expected, I must have the answer to my letter to Rasmussen. Thereafter I will again contact the Navy.

/s/ Clayton Bissell
CLAYTON BISSELL
Major General
A.C. of S., G-2.

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23 October 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE:

Subject: Exploitation of Japanese Air Documents.

- Reference: (a) A.C. of S., G-2, Memorandum 136781, same subject of 24 September 1944.
(b) A.C. of S., G-2, Memorandum 136782, Subject - Document Research of 24 September 1944.
(c) D.N.I. Memorandum 02288116, Subject - Exploitation of Japanese Air Documents, 21 October 1944.

1. In response to reference (c), it would appear that the action indicated in paragraphs, 1, 2, and 3 thereof will provide that portion of the Navy's quota essential to get the Air Document work going. Every effort will be made to utilize most effectively the Navy personnel available. Instructions issued should insure that they are afforded every convenience available at Camp Ritchie. The splendid spirit of cooperation in the joint air document work is appreciated.

2. In regard to reference (c) paragraph 4, your assurance that you consider the proposed plan for a joint document translation research organization sound in principle is gratifying. It is regretted that you consider there are practical deficiencies which prevent your concurrence at this time. The importance of getting the maximum value from captured documents, combined with the acute shortage of qualified Japanese linguists, would seem to indicate that we should further investigate this matter to determine means of removing the deficiencies that currently preclude the Navy and Army reaching a satisfactory joint solution. Further detailed comments on this matter are invited to the end that Navy and Army intelligence may be further improved.

CB

CLAYTON BISSELL
Major General,
A.C. of S., G-2.

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